**Rhetorical Analysis of Soldier’s Email (AP Language Exam):**

**Intro and first Body Paragraph**

Soldiers throughout history have elected to face environments and odds that the common civilian does not so that we can live our own lives in relative peace and security. This author, an American soldier fighting in Iraq in the early 21st century, attempts to communicate some of the more mundane but frustrating elements of his environment by employing imagery, hyperbole, and other figurative language to communicate a bitter tone and evoke sympathy from his audience through a pathos appeal.

The author begins his email with a directive to his audience: “Go to your vacuum…well, you get the picture” (3-5). This image draws on various senses in the reader—primarily tactile—to make the reader feel just how uncomfortable, abrasive, and filthy the soldier’s environment feels. This in turn appeals to his audience’s sense of pathos in an attempt to evoke pity for the conditions he lives in. Furthermore, the soldier’s appeal in this statement is made even more effective because he utilizes something his audience is already familiar with from their own environment, a vacuum cleaner, to recreate an unfamiliar environment: the sandy terrain of Iraq. Finally, he allows his readers to complete this uncomfortable scene with their own imaginations rather than using explicit details: “well, you get the picture” (5).